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A few natural flaws in the vellum, not touching the text; minor age-stains; some of the miniatures rubbed, while two are affected by faulty repair in one leaf.

Hugo De Folieto, of whose "Aviarium" M. R. James states there are six known copies, was the Canon of St. Augustin. In 1149 he refused the high honour of becoming Abbot of Saint Denis de Reims. Many of his compilations have been incorrectly attributed to other authors, and his "De Avibus, ad Rainerium," the first of 3 tracts on Beasts, is included in a printed edition of the works of Saint Victor, although the Colophon admits "Incipit Libellus domni Hugonis de Folieto de Natura Avium, ad Rainerum conversum." The second tract, "Bestiarium," was thought to have been written by Alain de Lille, author of a Bestiary devised by Jean de Tritenheim, but this, too, has been disproved.

A MOST UNUSUAL FEATURE OF THIS MANUSCRIPT IS THE GENERAL ARRANGEMENT; although spaces are provided in the text for illustrations, the actual miniatures (37 of birds, 33 of animals, and 5 miscellaneous) are placed together at the end. The inference is that the artist found far more subjects to depict than the number originally allotted to him, and decided to act accordingly.

It is hoped that the brief description and the reproductions may serve to create an adequate impression and a visual example of the great interest, importance, rarity and exceptional qualities of this item.

Continued on next page

A SELECTION OF THE ILLUMINATED MINIATURES:

Sycamore (or wild fig) ; grubs living inside the plant are emerging.

Pelican recalling its young to life by its own blood.

The Owl (or Nyktikorax) standing alone, enjoying the darkness and solitude (the two miniatures are differently shaded).

The Black Crow standing alone, because it takes but one consort in its life.

The Swallow brings forth but once (illustrated by one of the birds and its offspring ; this legend is a misreading of Aristotle, Hist. An. V. 13).

The Charadrius (Deut. X., v. 16, a wondrous white bird) presaging recovery or death for invalids (by looking towards the patient in one picture, and away from him in the other).

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SEE REPRODUCTION.

The Partridge hatches eggs of other birds (showing it with two birds of another species).

SEE REPRODUCTION.

An Ibis fishing alone along the shore.

A Lion rubbing footprints out with its tail.

The Panther (its spotted skin represented by brown and blue lines) luring its prey by its sweet odour.

Lion Cubs receiving life (3 days after being born) from their father's breath.

The Sirens and Onocentaurs (Isa. xiii. 21, 22), which are compound creatures.

The Otter (Enhyrides ; abbreviated here to Yrdo) enters the mouth of a crocodile to kill it.

The wild Ass (shown alone) suffers no male beside himself.

The Elephant conceives after partaking of **Mandrake** (including the view of half the figure of a woman growing from the ground).

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" And shrieks like Mandrakes, torn out of the earth,
That living mortals hearing them, run mad."

SHAKESPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet, iv*, 3.

The Elephant bringing forth in water.

The Antelope (or Hydrippus) caught by its horns in a thicket.

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